

REMARKS

The Office Action dated June 27, 2007 has been reviewed, and the comments of the U.S. Patent Office have been considered. Claims 1-28 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, the Abstract has been amended, claims 1, 6, and 12-16 have been amended, and new claims 19-28 have been added. The amendments and new claims are supported by the originally-filed specification at, for example, pages 3 (lines 11-20) and 14 (lines 1-12), and at Figs. 3 and 5a-5b.

The Abstract has been amended to remove reference numerals and revise text. It is respectfully requested that the amendments be entered by the Examiner.

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's comments regarding the specification and the reference identified in the specification. An Information Disclosure Statement is filed contemporaneously with this response.

Claim 14 stands objected to because of informalities. By this Amendment, claim 14 has been amended to address the Office's concerns. Accordingly, the objection is moot.

Claims 6 and 13-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. By this Amendment, claims 6 and 13 have been amended to address the Office's concerns. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 1-6 and 8-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Rubik (US5042118), and claims 1-3, 7-10, 13-16, and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Welch (US3368782). The rejections are respectfully traversed.

With regard to independent claim 1, Rubik and Welch each fail to show, describe, teach, or suggest a clamp having a first jaw and a second jaw each having opposed sidewalls with a substantially constant wall thicknesses. As shown in Rubik at Fig. 5, wall 21 has a non-constant wall thickness because of the presence of key rib 25 and slot 15, which vary the thickness of wall 21. Welch's blocks 24 and 34 are shown to be solid structures with a variable thickness and thus does not provide the claimed sidewall with a substantially constant wall thickness.

Also with regard to independent claim 1, Rubik and Welch each fail to show, describe, teach, or suggest a clamp having a first jaw and a second jaw with one or more means for guiding the first jaw and the second jaw during relative substantially linear displacement, with the one or means for guiding including a portion of each opposed sidewall that has a continuous edge defining a periphery of a hole extending through the opposed sidewall. The guiding

structures shown and described in Rubik are a mating key rib 25 and slot 15 that are formed as either a structure extending from wall 21 (for key ribs 25) or as a groove within wall 21 (for slot 15), and thus do not define holes through the Rubik wall 21. *See* Rubik at col. 5 (lines 19-23) and Fig. 5. Similarly, the guiding structures shown and described in Welch at items 29, 38, 39, and 42 are mating posts 29 and 39 and passages 38 and 42 that are formed on the exterior surfaces of blocks 24 and 34, and thus do not have edges defining a periphery of a hole through blocks 24 and 34. *See* Welch at Fig. 2.

For the foregoing reasons, the applied references fail to show, describe, teach, or suggest all of the features recited in independent claim 1 or the dependent claims thereof. It is respectfully requested that the rejections be withdrawn.

With regard to new claims 21-28, the applied references fail to show, describe, teach, or suggest the specific features recited in those claims.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this Application and the prompt allowance of at least the pending claims.

Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of this response, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned to expedite prosecution of the application.

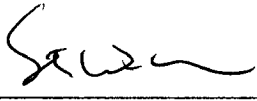
The Commissioner is hereby authorized by this paper to charge any fees during the entire pendency of this application including fees due under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 which may be required, including any required extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account 50-3840. **This paragraph is intended to be a CONSTRUCTIVE PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a)(3).**

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Respectfully submitted,

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